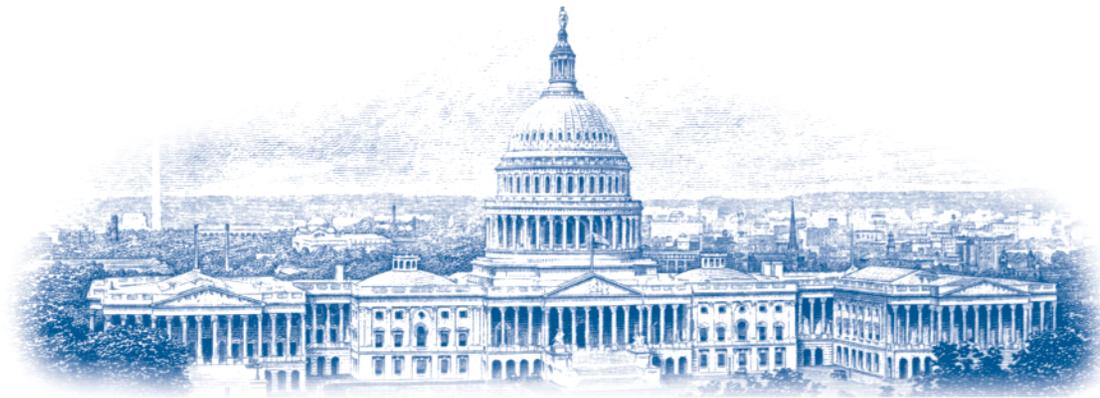


WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES: THE OTHER HALF OF THE AMERICAN STORY

*Women's Progress
Commemorative Commission
July 2001*

Table of Contents

Women’s History Sites: The Other Half of the Story	1
Public Law 105-341: Creating the Women’s Progress Commemorative Commission	3
Recommendations for National Action	4
Recommendations for Statewide Action	7
Recommendations for Local Action	9
Meetings Overview	11
Speakers List	14
Commission Members Biographical Information	15
Appendix	17
Text of Public Law 105-341	22
Bibliography	24
Acknowledgements	25



WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES: THE OTHER HALF OF THE AMERICAN STORY

*Women's Progress
Commemorative Commission
July 2001*

"Women have made enormous contributions in this country—in fact, this marvelous nation would never have come into being without them. Women were vital to the development of all areas of life, from home to industry to arts and literature. Yet those contributions have not been an integral part of our history. It is time to bring women's history out of the shadows, into the light of day, for all our citizens to see."

—Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY)
Chair, Women's Progress Commemorative Commission
July 2001

WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES: THE OTHER HALF OF THE AMERICAN STORY

History sites provide physical reminders of the past that are powerful interpretive tools. Yet documented preserved women's history sites are few and far between in America. Of the 73,000 or more sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 15% are associated with significant persons and experts estimate that of these, only about 4% are women's history sites.

Even where the stories of women's accomplishments are told, they are frequently portrayed from a

narrow perspective. For example, some sites include women only as they were mothers, wives, or daughters of great men, such as Abigail Adams. Others acknowledge women only if they were heroines whose accomplishments are widely recognized, such as Clara Barton or Eleanor Roosevelt.

There is growing awareness among historians that women have played vital roles in every aspect of public and private life in America. As Eric Foner, Professor of History at Columbia University and a former President of the Organization of American Historians points out, "Women's history has forced historians not simply to compensate for previous neglect of one-half of the population, but to rethink some of their basic premises."

Rethinking the role of women at existing sites is especially important since many places were established at a time when men's accomplishments defined what was significant in American history. History at the end of the twentieth century included great men and great events, but the picture of women in everyday life has transformed history. Preservationists and historians are beginning to recognize and embrace the varieties of significance that created our cherished heritage.

The Women's Progress Commemorative Commission applauds this new recognition of women's contributions to our society. The Commission believes that the whole landscape changes when women are included. Girls and boys learn how democracy evolved when

they visit sites that tell the story of the intersection of public and private life. Our children can gain the inspiration that moves them to active citizenship when they see that men and women have always worked side-by-side to create our nation.

The work of this Commission is not to force women's history into current interpretive programs. Rather, our goal is to ensure that women who participated in creating our nation are given their voice. Our objective is to add to the growing body of public recognition that a more accurate and comprehensive view of women is essential. Only then can we, as Americans, tell the truth about ourselves to our children and our children's children.

"I am reminded of all the young people in Connecticut and in the country who need strong positive female role models and that's what we should give them -a living heritage they can see, touch, and know. There are many sites both in Connecticut and throughout the country that need to be preserved - not just for women and girls but for everyone."

— Senator Chris Dodd
Introducing the Women's Progress Commemorative Commission Act
July 10, 1998

PUBLIC LAW 105-341: CREATING THE WOMEN'S PROGRESS COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

Public Law 105-341 (October 31, 1998), the Women's Progress Commemoration Act, establishes the Women's Progress Commemorative Commission (the Commission) "for the important task of ensuring the historic preservation of sites that have been instrumental in American women's history, creating a living legacy for generations to come." The law further directs the Commission to identify sites of historical significance to the women's movement.

Sponsored by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY) and Senator Chris Dodd (CN), the bill was passed shortly after the 150th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, NY. Today, the Women's Rights National Historical Park, built on the same site, commemorates the work of the women and men who, on a broiling hot day in July 1848, created the Declaration of Sentiments. This companion to the Declaration of Independence envisioned equality for all Americans, including women. By preserving this site, one can revisit the actual venue to gain insights and inspiration from our democratic heritage.

The Commissioners held their first meeting at Seneca Falls. They invited historians and other experts to testify about generic and site-specific needs and generally

available resources. They also asked for recommendations that would be appropriate for the Commission to consider.

Among the intriguing ideas presented to the Commission are those included in the Women's Rights History Trail Feasibility Study conducted by the National Park Service. The study outlines three alternatives and includes an overview of the expected visitor orientation and experience, the required administrative structure, the roles that various entities would play in managing the project, and the suggested site types. The study focuses on creating a field guide to women's sites, an auto route and partnership networks. It served this Commission as a useful tool in our deliberations.

The recommendations offered in this report are based on the

suggestions the Commission received in open meetings by letter, and through the surveys we conducted. We urge the adoption of our recommendations by both the public and private entities who can document, interpret, preserve and protect the sites where American women made history. This Commission has benefited from the inspiration gained by visiting such sites. We saw for ourselves how women created a better life for their families, their communities, and their country. We believe that the stories of women's achievements should be seen as well as heard in recognition of the fact that women as well as men contributed to the early and continuing development of our nation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL ACTION

We Recommend:

Create and maintain a national database of women's history sites

Background

Commission members agreed that they would document sites where women made important contributions to American life. They agreed that the sites should reflect the diversity of our population. However, the Commission needed to define the appropriate themes and parameters of the term, "historically significant women's sites." They also needed to understand the existing processes in place to qualify, document, interpret, register and preserve historic sites. Finally, they sought to collect information on sites currently managed by the National Park Service and private organizations, sites of historic significance that have heretofore been unrecognized, and existing sites endangered by neglect, destruction and decay.

Findings

The most obvious questions relating to the number of sites at issue proved to be among one of the more challenging problems. Despite extensive surveys of the literature relating to historic sites in the United States, the Commissioners could not find a comprehensive list of women's sites that are designated on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. They found even fewer lists of sites generated by local communities. The experts who testified confirmed that such lists did not exist. The construction of a master list became the Commission's first priority.

Several sources provide documentation about women's history sites. Organizations like the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and the General Federation of Women's Clubs as well as individual properties like the Sewell Belmont House (Washington, D.C.), Hull House (Chicago, IL), and Paulsdale (Mt. Laurel, NJ) maintain information about their historic significance as women's history sites. Additionally, information is readily available in the National Register of

Historic Places if the name or address of the specific *property* is known. However, the information is not aggregated so, while there is available information about women's history sites, it is difficult to access.

In order to review the sites, the Commissioners voted to create their own list. They sent letters to each state governor requesting information about the women's history sites in his/her state that are listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places as well as the sites listed as National Historic Landmarks. The Commissioners invited each governor to alert the Commission about those sites threatened with decay or destruction. Finally, they requested information about the State's required or suggested elementary and secondary school curricula dealing with American women's history. A copy of the letter was also sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in each state. Follow-up letters were mailed to the SHPO's in January, 2001 encouraging them to respond quickly.

Gathering the requested information became a major project

for the Commissioners. By the end of February, only half the states had responded and, of those, some had provided no information. The Commissioners divided the non-responding states and called each state officer to encourage them to provide at least the list of registered sites.

All 50 states and the Northern Mariana Islands responded. A few states claimed no women's sites of significance. This finding supports the Commissioners' view that a broadly based public awareness campaign will be necessary to achieve the mission stated in our authorizing legislation, that is to "advance the important task of ensuring the historic preservation of sites that have become instrumental in American women's history, creating a living legacy for generations to come."

Recommendations

Given the difficulty of gathering the information, the Commission decided to create a data base that includes all known women's history sites that are registered or have been nominated on either the National or State Registers

of Historic Places. The database is organized and searchable on the following parameters:

- State
- Person(s) commemorated or interpreted
- Site address
- Submitting contact person
- Area of significance or major themes i.e., women's rights / political, social / cultural, education and economic / professional
- Designation i.e., national or state register, pending application, national historic landmark,
- Submitting organization.

The Commission recommends that:

The National Park Service post this data base and maintain it by adding new sites as they are registered on the National or State Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service develop a process to receive women's history site information for inclusion in the existing database. In addition, if the

interpretation of women's contributions is added to a site that is not usually considered a woman's site, this site should then be added to the database. For example, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Save America's Treasures* program is attempting to restore the cottage where Martha Washington spent the winter at Valley Forge. This restoration would qualify Valley Forge for a women's history site designation.

The Commission recognizes that the database is only the foundation for what could become a rich source of information. Therefore, they encourage the National Park Service to allocate the necessary resources to post this database in an accessible, attractive, illustrated format.

N.B. Some Commissioners believed that the recommendations to create and maintain a women's history sites database could be merged with the following recommendation to create a data flag. (See Appendix 1, *Database v. Data flag: A Dissenting View*)

***We Recommend:
Create a data field on the National and State Registers of Historic Places that identifies women's history sites***

Background

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places (the National Register) is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The National Register is an authoritative guide to be used by Federal, State, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation's cultural resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment.

The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, a unit of the United States Department of the Interior. In effect, it is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

Findings

While the National Register does include sites where women made significant contributions to American life, these sites are difficult to identify because the National Register does not include women as an area of significance on the registration application. Following the national lead, State Historic Preservation Offices do not include women as a separate area or theme, either.

There are several methods in which women's sites may be located among the 73,000 listings on the National Register. The simplest method is to search the National Register Information System (NRIS), a computerized index to the listings, to look for a woman's name in the title of the site. The NRIS contains about 45 data elements that can be queried individually or in a variety of combinations to find listings associated with women. However, the queries are not easy or obvious. For example, researchers looking for women's sites in a geographical area are forced to search first by theme or, alternately, by the name of the woman

they seek. As of June 6, 2001, the NRIS showed 9,820 listings associated with significant persons or about 15% of the total listings. About 360 (under 4%) of these were women.

According to Carol D. Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, in her report, *Placing Women in the Past*, (Cultural Resource Management, Volume 20, No. 3, 1997), “Researchers may miss places which do not have an individual in the name unless they read each nomination.” She continues that, “in hindsight, I wish we had a data field to flag listings that are relevant for women’s history.”

Recommendations

The Commission agrees with Ms. Shull’s reconsideration. As Ms. Shull suggests, searching for sites affiliated with women is a complex and cumbersome process.

The Commission recommends:

The National Register include a process to identify women’s history site information for inclusion on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

At the very minimum, a data field should be a part of the official application form

The data field and searchable code should be user-friendly and easily accessible by the public and should signify that the registered site is either primarily a woman’s history site or a site where contributions of women are significant so that those wishing to pull out all women’s sites, as we did, will have no trouble doing that in the future.

SHPOs or private individuals who nominate sites for listing on State and/or National registers should include a flag when the site is affiliated with women.

SHPOs should also amend previously registered listings when the site adds information about women to their interpretive materials.

The Commission believes that this indicator will be a valuable tool. Furthermore, the Commission encourages the National Park Service to allocate the necessary resources to update these data bases in as timely a manner as possible.

We Recommend:
Support a public-private partnership network to provide technical assistance for preservation and interpretation of women’s historic sites

Background

Title IV, Section 401 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) directs the Department of the Interior to establish a National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. This Center, located at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, LA, provides a variety of services for Federal, State and local resource preservation professionals, cultural resource managers, and others working in the preservation field. The Act does not specifically direct the Center to provide outreach to people working in the women’s history sites field.

The Preservation Act also establishes a Preservation Technology and Training Board to provide leadership, policy advice, and professional oversight to the Center. It advises the Secretary of the Interior on

priorities and the allocation of grants to eligible applicants with a demonstrated institutional capability and commitment to the purposes of the Center.

From 1994 – 2000, the value of Preservation Technology Training grants totaled over \$4-million in support of over 150 projects. None of them specifically supported a women’s history project.

Historic preservation is not limited to the Department of the Interior. Under Section 110 of the Act, amended in 1980, and Section 106, amended in 1992, the head of each Federal agency must assume responsibility for the preservation of historic properties owned or controlled by the agency. Each Agency is directed to establish and maintain an historic preservation program that is coordinated by a qualified Preservation Officer. While the historic preservation program must be fully integrated into both the general and specific operating procedures of the agency, which include equal opportunities for women, no mention is made of preserving women’s history sites.

Findings

Despite significant support for historic preservation at the Federal level, the Commission found no existing directive to provide technical assistance to women's history sites. In effect, there is little attention paid to these properties by Federal Agencies.

There are several organizations that may be willing to partner with the Federal government to develop substantive programs to assist community preservationists working on specific women's history sites. The Commission heard testimony from some of them like the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Women's History Project, each of whom has ongoing interests and resident expertise in developing, documenting and preserving women's history sites. However they, like so many others who testified before this Commission, told us that they frequently lack the resources or the technical capacity to accomplish preservation goals.

Agencies may enlist the aid of these and other private organizations and preservation experts to provide community preservationists with this technical assistance. Agencies may provide these private organizations and individuals with grants for this work out of their existing budgets when it proves cost-effective.

Another issue for site managers is the lack of on-site assistance from preservation experts. Several site managers have expressed the need for technical assistance where the problems can be directly observed rather than abstractly described.

Recommendations

The Commission encourages the formation of public-private partnerships between Federal agencies, including the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and the National Park Service, and non-profit private sector organizations with a mission that incorporates identification and preservation of women's history sites.

The Commission recommends:

Ask the Secretary of the Interior to issue guidance specifically directing Federal Agencies to interpret and document the contributions of women at registered historic sites under their control.

Federal Agencies should incorporate into existing programs an outreach effort such as circuit riders to assist property owners in undertaking the research, documentation, evaluation, needs assessment, preservation, and general good stewardship that their properties require. Such an initiative should be made a priority and budgets should be reallocated to so indicate that priority.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ACTION

We Recommend:

Establish an incentive program for State Historic Preservation Offices to encourage them to identify and preserve women's history sites

Background

State Historic Preservation Offices are funded, in part, by annual grants from the Department of Interior under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16USC470). These grants total in excess of \$1-billion since 1968 when the first grant funds were awarded. Out of the 2001 appropriation of \$46.6-million, the average State allocation is about \$788,000, which is typically matched by another \$550,000 in non-federal matching share contributions. Each state is required to allocate ten percent of their federal grant to local governments.

The Secretary of the Interior determines the amounts appropriated to the States for programs and projects. She also establishes the guidelines for the use and distribution of the funds to insure

that no local government receives a disproportionate share of the available funds. Projects eligible for funding and the criteria used to select them are developed annually by the State not the National Park Service.

Findings

Each State has at least one Historic Preservation Officer. However, based on our experience in working with them, these officers change frequently. Therefore, establishing program continuity may be a hidden problem.

Commitment to women's history sites ranges from minimal to major. States in which there is a Federal incentive are aggressively pursuing the documentation and preservation of women's sites. For example, Massachusetts and New York SHPOs are working with the National Park Service to enhance the woman's history trail created in 1998 to commemorate the first women's rights convention. New Jersey is also conducting what may be the first comprehensive study into the identification of historic sites that document women's contributions in

all fields. Iowa lists a great number of historic markers although not as many physical sites.

Based on requests for information from the Commission, several states have initiated women's history sites explorations. For example, Virginia has requested information about what other states are doing to commemorate women's history. This suggests that the Commission's work to raise awareness and share information about the importance of finding and documenting women's history sites is already producing beneficial results in the preservation field.

Recommendations

The Federal influence over programs at both the State and local levels through annual grants is a given.

The Commission recommends that:

The Department of Interior create a targeted initiative that provides SHPOs with an additional percentage of appropriations for the preservation of women's history sites from DOI's existing budget. The incentive should support

women's history sites and supplement the state's current activity in this area. States will match federal funds with public and private dollars. Projects might include developing a regional women's history trail, listing a specific number of new sites or other initiatives that expand the documentation, interpretation or preservation of women's history sites.

In order to encourage DOI to add these targeted initiatives, clarifying language may be required in the report language for the Department of the Interior to accomplish re-prioritizing or providing incentives to preserve women's history sites. The language should specify that the existing budget, and not additional appropriations, is to be used.

We Recommend:
Create Statewide, Regional or Community Women's History Trails

Background

History trails or travel itineraries on specific subjects or themes are popular in the United States. The National Register's *Discover Our Shared Heritage*

travel itinerary series invites tourists to explore our country's past through visiting registered historic places. The series is part of the Department of Interior's role in realizing a strategy to revitalize communities by promoting public awareness of history and encouraging tourists to visit heritage places throughout the nation.

The Boston Heritage Trail is an excellent example of a successful history trail. The Commission believes that a network of such community trails will ultimately create a national women's history trail.

Findings

The National Park Service has undertaken over twenty theme studies to produce as many travel itineraries or history trails. One of these, *Women Made History Travel Itinerary*, www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwwmh lists 74 sites in Massachusetts and New York associated with the varied aspects of women's history. By following this itinerary, the public can learn about the accomplishments of many American women who made outstanding contributions to

education, government, medicine, the arts, commerce, women's suffrage and the early civil rights movement.

States are following the national lead. The State of New Jersey is creating a guide directed at tourists entitled, *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail*. The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History produced a guide called *Women Who Made History: A Guide to Women's History Sites in Washington, D.C.* It lists 14 sites in the nation's capital and is a helpful companion to the National Register's *Washington, DC Travel Itinerary* that lists only four women's history sites among the 92 it describes.

Recommendations

The depth and breadth of sites listed for almost every state in the country could be linked.

The Commission recommends that:

State Historic Preservation Offices create a statewide women's history trail linking those sites that are already listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. Such a trail can be geographic rather than theme-related. This would simplify the creative process and encourage an early entry into the History Trails business. As new sites are added, the trails can be divided or revised according to themes.

Sites within a given region or community may partner to publish joint promotional materials. That, in effect, will create a regional women's history trail. These materials should be distributed to local tourist information centers and state tourism offices.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL ACTION

We Recommend:

Encourage owners of women's history sites to document, highlight and seek opportunities for preservation and maintenance of their property at time of sale.

Background

The activities around finding and documenting historic properties are extensive and appear to be increasing. In the last year, states surveyed 9.3-million acres for historic resources and added 124,500 properties to their inventories. They submitted 1,402 nominations to the National Register, provided 55,900 National Register eligibility opinions to Federal agencies, and undertook reviews of 3,208 Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive applications. Whether or how many women's sites are included in this activity remains a mystery.

The body of literature that is growing around women's sites indicates that documentation work is proceeding. From Dr. Heather

Huyck's *Beyond John Wayne: Using Historic Sites to Interpret Women's History* (Western Women, Their Land, Their Lives, University of New Mexico Press, 1988) and Page Putnam Miller's *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History* (Indiana University Press, 1992) to Lynn Sheer and Jurate Kazickas' *Susan B. Anthony Slept Here: A Guide to American Women's Landmarks* (Times Books, 1994), there is an increasing interest in guides to women's history sites.

Findings

There are several concerns often expressed regarding the "burden" of owning a designated historic property. Owners fear that they will lose control of their property or incur additional maintenance costs. In fact, owners retain all their rights. At the same time, they may gain certain tax benefits and incentives when their properties are designated on the National Register of Historic Places and that designation is maintained. (See Appendix 2, *Effects of Listing Under Federal Law*). Because of these concerns, owners may allow their properties to remain in private hands

rather than become subject to preservation laws or covenants.

Another concern revolves around the monetary value of the property, itself. Owners frequently have either little idea of the value to a preservation organization or, conversely, have an inflated idea of the property value in the marketplace.

Recommendations

The Commissioners recognize the importance of mitigating concerns about preservation through public education.

The Commission recommends that:

National and state preservation organizations in both the public and private sector should create joint awareness campaigns to tell the stories about women's history sites in local communities. Whenever possible, specific sites should be highlighted.

As part of the awareness campaign, organizations should promote the use of websites that provide information for owners about how to register their properties, how to secure a preservation easement or otherwise protect their property and their property rights. An excellent

starting point is the National Register of Historic Places website at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/listing.htm.

We Recommend:

Include young people in women's history site activities

Background

Involving young people in women's history projects was recommended by the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History. This idea was echoed by Deborah Brittain, President, Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and Gabrielle Smith, Executive Director, General Federation of Women's Clubs in testimony before the Commission.

Findings

Among the governors who responded to the Commission's survey, only two referenced the inclusion of women's history studies in school curricula. The National Women's History Project, the organization that convinced Congress to authorize National Women's History Month, told the Commission that with rare exceptions, only a few women are routinely included in elementary and secondary school textbooks.

However, because of Women's History Month celebrations in March, there is an increasing awareness of the roles that women played in our history.

Awareness may be created through programs that excite and encourage participation. The Women of the West Museum in Bolder, CO, is an excellent example of creating programs that are fun for children. Children are rewarded with a History Detective Badge if they search out and document women's history sites in their local community.

Recommendations

The Commissioners agree that both boys and girls will benefit from exposure to women's history sites. An effective way to make history come alive is to follow a history trail, learn the stories, and, ultimately, participate in preservation activities to foster a deeper understanding of the site's significance.

The Commission recommends that:

Clubs and organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, or National Association of Women Business Owners should partner with school groups and youth groups like the Girl Scouts, Boy

Scouts, Girls Clubs and Boys Clubs to research, document and preserve a local woman's history site during Women's History Month. Always mindful of inclusiveness, children may be directed to sites where women voted for the first time, created a school or library, or started a business.

Families should be encouraged to create a family history trail using the National Endowment for the Humanities My History is America's History guide. Upon completion of their history, families should visit the sites with their children.

The Department of Education and the National Park Service should be encouraged to work with local school districts to help them develop curricula exercises tied to women's history sites. Excellent sources for curricula development exist, notably the National Women's History Project women's history units and George Washington University Research Professor, Allida Black's *Eleanor Roosevelt* syllabus.

Every member of Congress should include a women's history site quiz targeted to children in their newsletters.

MEETINGS OVERVIEW

*July 12, 2000
Seneca Falls, N.Y*

The first meeting of the Commission was held in Seneca Falls, NY, home of Women's Rights National Historical Park and site of the first women's rights convention in 1848.

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY) was elected Chairperson and Dr. Joan Hedrick was elected Vice-Chairperson.

The initial focus of the meeting was to discuss the scope of the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission's mission as well as to set goals for its outcome. The Commission recognized the importance of sites that commemorate the contributions of women to American life. They agreed that the identification, interpretation, and preservation of significant women's history sites provided important contributions to a better understanding of American democracy.

Women have long been a peripheral part of preservation in general in the United States. All too

often, they have gone uncelebrated for their work. As they have achieved institutional security and greater access to educational institutions, commemorating their contributions has increased but is still woefully invisible. Therefore, the Commission agreed that it was necessary to raise awareness of sites in addition to preserving them.

Commissioners discussed the funding needs for research, the availability of funds for new exhibits, and the possibility of providing scholarships for people who wish to commemorate women in history. Commissioners recognized the importance of prioritizing existing historic sites that are associated with women to increase community participation in preservation activities and public awareness of the contributions of women to American life.

The Commission agreed to conduct a survey of women's history sites. The Commission also agreed to create a database that included a comprehensive list of national historic sites associated with women, and explore the development of a

women's history trail. They agreed to explore closer partnerships between public and private organizations, including State Historic Preservation Offices, as well as possible uses of federal resources.

*December 5, 2000
Santa Fe New Mexico*

The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Cultural Resources 2000 *Managing for the Future* Conference, hosted by the National Park Service. Commissioners attended a plenary session before beginning their own public meeting.

Commissioners elected Beth Newburger, Vice-Chairman to replace Dr. Joan Hedrick who resigned. The Commissioners agreed that the Commission would continue to enlist the help of the Governors as well as the State Historic Preservation Officers to compile the list of registered National and State Historic sites that are associated with women. They also suggested that they solicit information from private organizations in order to make the database more comprehensive.

Uses for the database were discussed. It was suggested that a large number of sites should be documented in each region of the country. Commissioners suggested that the database could be used to amass a "Top 10" list of historic places associated with women, and could also be used as a resource for enabling further interpretation of sites that already exist on the National Register of Historic Places.

Finally, the Commission discussed possible recommendations to the Secretary of Interior. The Commission considered developing a list of the most endangered sites that could be released annually. For those sites not yet on the Register, a marker program was suggested as well as working toward their inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

*February 28, 2001
Washington, DC*

This meeting began with a discussion regarding the funding and staffing questions that arose as a result of Presidential transition activities and the actions of career federal

employees at the General Services Administration prior to the appointment of new administration personnel. Also, as a result of the Commission's transfer from GSA to the Small and Independent Agency Liaison Division, the Commissioners voted to appoint Beth Newburger as Executive Director.

The problems encountered in collecting the information for the database of women's history sites were discussed. Commissioners agreed to call states that had not responded to urge them to submit their listed sites. The Commission also discussed their draft and final report recommendations.

Further discussion revolved around methods of recognizing and commemorating historic sites associated with women. The Commission noted the trend toward increased interest in commemorating women's sites but also noted a lack of interest in telling the stories of the women themselves. The emphasis on the site rather than the person was an area of concern for the Commission because the stories of women's achievements could be lost.

Commissioners suggested that State Historic Preservation Offices and State Historic Societies include a report of what they believe to be important or inspiring about the women who are associated with their respective sites.

The Commissioners explored methods to create a structure that allowed local groups to adopt a specific site. They considered ways to involve women in business, professional and philanthropic groups in a program to "adopt" the site as part of a club project.

*April 30, 2001
Chicago, IL*

The Commissioners reviewed the status of the State surveys. Final recommendations were discussed. The Commission recognized the importance of explaining the selection and interpretation process it used to assemble its research as well as the importance of using existing networks of historians, preservationists, and state and local history associates as guides. In addition to utilizing these existing structures, the

Commissioners wanted to identify areas that require new ones.

The Commissioners recognized the importance of publicizing women's history sites through existing channels as well as encouraging use of new emerging technologies and exciting, experimental activities. Just as the Commission found it important to make use of existing networks, so too did it want to utilize existing educational institutions. The Commission emphasized the importance of linking and cross-referencing various issues with different women. Use of these networks and structures can help to insure that sites are properly celebrated.

The Commissioners encouraged the identification of sites by discipline or theme i.e., social/cultural, economic/professional, education and women's rights/political. The Commissioners also suggested that they seek assistance from experts in the field of cultural tourism in the US. Finally, they recognized that sites may commemorate a milestone event,

occurrence, collection or study where women's progress was significantly altered, where breakthroughs occurred or where impact on culture is evident.

*June 11, 2001
Washington, D.C.*

At the final meeting of the Commission, Commissioners deliberated over the recommendations included in the draft report. They were aided in their discussions by experts from the National Park Service as well as academicians and directors of private preservation groups.

The Commissioners noted that they had received responses to the database survey from every state and the Northern Mariana Islands. They also noted that a few states claimed that they had no sites of importance to women although the same states did acknowledge that they had one or two important women who had lived among them.

Because the database was larger than anticipated, the Commissioners agreed that they

could not prioritize the sites. Each site was important in its community. Although several were sites of national importance like the Sewall Belmont House and Eleanor Roosevelt's cottage at Val Kill, these sites were in as much need of support and increased awareness as those small community sites that were

locally focused. Therefore, the Commission decided to recommend the publication of the entire database by the National Park Service.

Funding and other resources were needed by every site. Broader preservation issues also required more funding. While the Commissioners were clear about *not*

recommending additional appropriations from the Federal government, they did agree that the Department of Interior should redirect priorities to ensure that SHPO funds were allocated for women's history sites within the existing DOI budget.

The Commission will present its final report to the Secretary of the

Interior or her representatives in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in coordination with the release of the National Park Service *Women's History Trail Feasibility Study Executive Summary* and the transfer of the Hunt House from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

SPEAKERS

Lori Barnum, Executive Director,
Susan B. Anthony House,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Allida Black, Historian, Research
Professor at George Washington
University, Director of the Eleanor
Roosevelt Papers

William Bolger, National Historic
Landmarks Program Manager,
National Park Service

Deborah C. Brittain, President,
Association of Junior Leagues
International, Inc.

Martha Burk, Ph.D., National Council
of Women's Organizations

Dr. Ida Burroughs, Director Emeritus,
Founder, South Side Community Art
Center

Rhonda Carboni, President, Alice
Paul Centennial Foundation.

Ellen Levin Carlson, Community
Planner, Boston/N.E. Regional Office,
National Park Service

Stephen Neal Dennis, Member of the
Board of Directors, Sewell Belmont
House

Dorothy Clark, Representative, First
Church of Christ, Boston, MA

Josie Fernandez, Superintendent,
Women's Rights National Historic
Park, National Park Service,
Seneca Falls, NY

Dorothy Guzzo, Deputy State
Preservation Officer, New Jersey
Historic Preservation

Kathryn Higgins, Vice President
Public Policy, National Trust for
Historic Preservation

Dr. Heather Huyck, Author

Gwendolyn Webber- McLeod,
Friends of Women's Rights National
Park, Inc.

Nancy Moore, Executive Director, the
Three Arts Club of Chicago

Mary Anne Openheimer, Executive
Director, National Women's Hall of
Fame, Seneca Falls, NY

Dr. Vivien Rose, Historian, Women's
Rights National Park, Seneca Falls,
NY

Marie Rust, Regional Director,
Northeast Region, National Park
Service, Philadelphia, PA

Vicki Sandstead, Historian, National
Park Service, Boston, MA

Dr. Carol Shull, Keeper, National
Register of Historic Places, National
Park Service

Gabrielle Smith, Executive Director,
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Mary Troy, Steering Committee,
National Collaborative for Women's
History Sites

Carol Van West, Assistant Professor,
Center for Historic Preservation,
University of Middle Tennessee
(submitted mailed testimony)

Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General
USAF (Ret.), President, Women In
Military Service For America
Memorial Foundation, Inc.,
Washington, DC

Bill Watson, Journalist, Founding
Member, Friends of Women's Rights
National Historical Park, Inc.

COMMISSION MEMBERS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Louise Slaughter, Chair

Rochester, NY

Currently in the One Hundred Seventh Congress, she serves on the Committee on Rules subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House. She attended the University of Kentucky, where she received a B.S. in 1951 and a master's degree in public health in 1953.

Clayola Brown, member

Laurelton, NY

International Vice President of Union Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, Executive Council Vice President AFL-CIO, Director, Department of Civil Rights- Unite, Manager of Amalgamated Service & Allied Industries Joint Board

Jane Chastain, member

Los Angeles, CA

Political writer and broadcaster from southern California who was the host of the nationally syndicated radio program, "What Washington Doesn't Want you to Know" for 10 years. She

is a columnist for WorldNetDaily.com, the author of "I'd Speak Out on the Issues if I only Knew What to Say," and the host of many TV documentaries. However, she always will be remembered as this nation's first female sportscaster. During her 17 years of sports coverage at television stations WAGA, WRAL, WTVJ, KABC, and the CBS network she broke many barriers for women.

Nancy Desmond, member

Atlanta, GA

President, The Gingrich Group.

Desmond served as chief of staff for the Georgia Sixth District congressional and district offices under speaker Newt Gingrich.

Desmond is an author and freelance writer whose work has appeared in widely read publications including *People* and *Ladies Home Journal*. She is a 1998 graduate of Leadership Georgia and serves on the advisory board for the Cobb County Cancer Society. She also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, the Good News animal shelter, and is a member of the Atlanta Humane Society.

Becky Dunlop, member

Arlington, VA

Vice President, External Relations Heritage Foundation. Formerly served as Secretary of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Cabinet of Governor George Allen and as a Deputy Assistant to President Ronald Reagan. She also started her own company, Century Communications, Inc. and currently serves on its Board of Directors.

Dorothy (Deecy) Stephens Gray, member

McLean, VA

President, D.C. Stephens Ltd., a public relations firm in Washington, D.C. Her editorial column appears in dozens of newspapers throughout the United States. She serves or has served on several presidential, congressional, corporate and educational boards, including her most recent appointment to the board of George Mason University.

Amy Holmes, member

Washington, DC

Fox News Contributor, Columnist, USA Today, Voter.com Project

Director, Independent Women's Forum. Ms. Holmes holds a Bachelors of Arts in economics from Princeton University, class of 1994.

Barbara Haney Irvine, member

Cinnaminson, NJ

Founded the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation in 1985 and served as its president for thirteen years. The Foundation's mission is to increase public awareness of the life and work of Dr. Alice Stokes Paul, 20th century women's rights leader, to present educational materials about women in history, and to restore Paulsdale. Ms Irvine initiated and chaired the first national conference on the preservation of women's historic sites, "Reclaiming Women's History through Historic Preservation".

Patricia Lamar, member

Oxford, MS

Mayor of Oxford, Mississippi Lamar was elected mayor in 1997 after serving as Mayor Protempore for 8 years. Formed a Historic Preservation commission and associated Ordinances. Serves on many boards and committees.

Ann Lewis, member

Washington, DC
Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Brandeis University. Former Counselor to the President and White House Director of Communications for President Bill Clinton. Vice President for Public Policy at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Lewis led a study group on *Going First: Women's Leaders* for Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Molly Murphy MacGregor, member

Santa Rosa, CA
Executive Director, National Women's History Project. In 1980 MacGregor co-founded the National Women's History project (NWHP), an educational nonprofit institution. The NWHP spearheaded the movement for National Women's History Week

(which in 1987 became National Women's History Month). As Executive Director of the National Women's History project for the past 21 years, MacGregor has worked with educators, parents, librarians, workplace managers and leaders of national women's organizations to encourage them to recognize and celebrate women's accomplishments.

Beth Newburger, Executive Director and Member

Arlington, VA
Appointed by President Clinton to co-chair the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, Newburger also served as the Associate Administrator of Marketing and Communications for the U.S. General Services Administration. Prior to that, she was Outreach Coordinator for the White House Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach, President and

CEO, Corabi International Telemetrics, Inc. and Publisher, Washington Woman Magazine. Newburger serves on many corporate and non-profit boards including the Capital Children's Museum.

Lisa Perry, member

New York City, NY
Lisa is originally from Chicago and moved to New York in 1979 to attend The Fashion Institute of Technology where she graduated in 1981. After 15 years Lisa returned to school to pursue an interest in psychology and graduated magna cum laude in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Today she serves on the College's Alumni Advisory Board.

Ruth L. Simmons, member

Providence, RI
President, Brown University. Former President, Smith College. Dr.

Simmons received her Ph.D in romance languages and literature from Harvard University. Simmons serves on numerous boards, including the Clarke School for the Deaf, Pfizer Inc. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Texas Instruments, Inc. the Carnegie Corporation and the Goldman Sachs Group.

Virginia DH Sneve, member

South Dakota
Author and Educator, Sneve's first book was published in 1972. She has since published five books for adults, 16 for children, and numerous short stories, articles and poems. Sneve was named National Endowment for the Humanities Medalist in 2000. She holds an honorary doctorate of Letters from Dakota Wesleyan University, a Masters from South Dakota State University and a BS degree from South Dakota State College.

APPENDIX 1

Database v. Data Field: A Dissenting View

"I agree with the point made by Carol D. Shull, Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, in her testimony before this panel, that maintaining a database of women's history sites separate and apart from other history sites could be considered condescending. I have no problem with the National Park Service posting our database until a search key can be made available in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Historic Registers. Once that search key is available in the main database, anyone who wishes can pull an updated list of women's sites with little effort. Also, I don't see the need for requiring the maintenance of two separate databases when the same thing could be accomplished with one. I view it as a waste of effort and manpower and feel the money could

be used to improve an existing site or develop a new one."

Jane Chastain, Commissioner

Concurrences:

Commissioner Nancy Desmond

Commissioner Deecy Gray

Commissioner Patricia Lamar

Commissioner Becky Norton-Dunlop

APPENDIX 2

National Register of Historic Places: Definition and Registration Processes

National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, Federal agencies, and others identify important historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions.

The National Historic Register includes such properties as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. It is important to note that listing of private property on the National Register does not prohibit under Federal law or regulation any actions that may otherwise be taken by the property owner with respect to the property.

Included among the nearly 73,000 listings that comprise the National Register are:

- All historic areas in the National Park System;
- Over 2,300 National Historic Landmarks, which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior because of their exceptional importance to American history.
- Properties across the country that have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals for their significance to the nation, to a state, or to a community.

National Historic Landmarks, NHL Designation

A designation that deserves special attention is that of a National Historic Landmark. Listed on the National Register of Historic places, these sites recognize properties that are important to the entire nation. They are places where significant historical events occurred, where prominent Americans worked or lived, that represent those ideas that shaped the nation, that provide important information about our past, or that are outstanding examples of design or construction. While many historic places are important locally or on a state or regional level, a few have meaning for most Americans. Places that "possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States" are designated National Historic Landmarks.

In 1935, the U.S. Congress charged the Department of the Interior with the responsibility for designating nationally significant

historic sites, buildings, and objects and promoting their preservation for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States. The National Historic Landmarks Program was established to identify and protect places possessing exceptional value in illustrating the nation's heritage. Only 3% of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are designated as National Historic Landmarks.

National Historic Landmarks may be designated through broad organized initiatives called theme studies, which examine related places linked by a single subject or theme, or they may be identified individually. The National Park Service often conducts National Historic Landmark Studies in partnership with federal, state, tribal, or local preservation officials; the academic community; independent scholars; and others knowledgeable about a particular subject. The National Park Service's National Historic Landmark's Survey staff

prepares nominations, advises others on their preparation, and evaluates potential National Historic Landmark nominees for their ability to meet specific criteria. The National Park System Advisory Board considers completed nominations at meetings that are open to the public. Based upon the recommendations of the Board, the Secretary of the Interior designates National Historic Landmarks:

- National Historic Landmark designation recognizes properties that are important to the entire nation.
- National Historic Landmarks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Owners of National Historic Landmarks are free to manage their property as they choose, provided no federal license, permit, or funding is involved.
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a National Historic Landmark must give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property.

- Owners of National Historic Landmarks may be able to obtain federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.
- A bronze plaque bearing the name of the National Historic Landmark and attesting to its national significance is presented to the owner upon request.

State Registers of Historic Places

Listings on state registers are determined on a state by state basis. State Historic Preservation Officers determine the designation they believe to be appropriate for a specific site. This is based on the criteria for the National Register, as well as the criteria each state may have for its own register. While a site must be on the National Register to be eligible for the incentives it provides, incentives for historic preservation on a state level do exist for sites located on the state historic register. These incentives, similar to the sites themselves, vary in each state.

Nominating Process for National Register

Properties are nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO) of the State in which the property is located, by the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control, or by the Tribal Preservation Officer (TPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Ordinarily, State nomination forms are prepared by private individuals or the staff of the SHPO. These professionals are usually experts in one or more fields of American history, architectural history, architecture, prehistoric, and historic archeology, and other related disciplines. The review board makes a recommendation to the SHPO either to approve the nomination if, in the board's opinion, it meets the National Register criteria, or to disapprove the nomination if it does not.

During the time the proposed nomination is reviewed by the SHPO, property owners and local officials are notified of the intent to nominate.

Local officials and property owners are given the opportunity to comment on the nomination and owners of private property are given an opportunity to object to or concur with the nomination.

If the owner of a private property, or the majority of private property owners for a property or district with multiple owners, objects to the nomination, the SHPO may forward the nomination to the National Park Service for a determination of eligibility. Without formally listing the property in the National Register, the National Park Service then determines whether the property is eligible for listing. If the property is eligible, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be afforded the opportunity to comment on any Federal Project that may affect it. If the review board and the SHPO agree on the eligibility of the property (and the owner has not objected to the nomination), then the nomination is forwarded to the National Park Service to be considered for listing.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is an

independent Federal agency that provides a forum for influencing Federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic resources. It is comprised of both members appointed by the President, as well as those who hold permanent positions on the Board. The President appoints four members from the general public, four historic preservation experts, a Native American or Native Hawaiian member, a governor, a mayor, and four heads of Federal agencies, all serving terms. The members whose positions are permanent on the Advisory Board are the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and the Architect of the Capitol.

National Register Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or
- that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

National Register Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years

shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a religious property deriving significance from architectural or historic importance; or
- a building or structure removed from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a particular person or event; or
- a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a

- restoration master plan, when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- a property commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

Properties are added to the National Register through the following processes

- Those acts of Congress and Executive orders which create historic areas of the National Park System administered by the National Park Service, all or portions of which may be determined to be of historic significance consistent with the intent of Congress;
- Properties declared by the Secretary of the Interior to be of national significance and designated as National Historic Landmarks;

- Nominations prepared under approved State Historic Preservation Programs, submitted by the State Historic Preservation Officer and approved by the National Park Service;
- Nominations from any person or local government (only if such property is located in a State with no approved State Historic Preservation Program) approved by National Park Service and;
- Nominations of Federal properties by Federal agencies, submitted by the Federal Preservation Officer and approved by National Park Service.

Effects of Listing under Federal Law

The National Register was designed to be and is administered as a planning tool. Federal agencies undertaking a project having an effect on a listed or eligible property must provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on its action. Having complied with this procedural requirement, the Federal agency may adopt any course of action it believes is appropriate. While the Advisory Council comments must be taken into

account and integrated into the decision making process, program decisions rest with the agency implementing the undertaking.

Listing in the National Register also makes property owners eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation.

Most sites on the National Register of Historic Places are owned by private individuals or groups. Others are owned by local, state, tribal or federal government agencies, or have mixed public-private ownership. Listing on this register offers advantages to owners who wish to preserve their properties. It aids decision making by government agencies, private organizations, and individuals because it is the primary federal means of assessing the national significance of historic properties. Information on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as Historic Landmark designations, provides valuable information for planning, public education, and interpretation.

APPENDIX 3

The National Trust for Historic Preservation: Save America's Treasures

Initially a project of the White House Millennium celebration, *Save America's Treasures* is now a public-private partnership between the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. *Save America's Treasures* is dedicated to identifying and rescuing the enduring symbols of American tradition that define us as a nation. From the beginning, both the public and private aspects of the program have been studiously bi-partisan and devoid of controversy. Led by the Committee to Save America's Treasures, it is co-chaired by Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Susan Eisenhower, the noted author and granddaughter of former president Dwight Eisenhower.

**Save America's Treasures
Priority Projects**

The following list, arranged in priority order, represents sites that the Committee considers important to women's history - where a famous woman lived (in the case of Val-Kill cottage or The Mount), or women worked for equal rights (in the case of M'Clintock House or Sewall-Belmont), or women played unusual roles in society (as in the matrilineal culture at Ganondagan State Historic Site). Contributions to *Save America's Treasures* come from foundation, corporate, individual and government sources.

Sewall-Belmont House and Collections

Includes historic home and materials from the 20th century women's suffrage and equal rights movement
144 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 546-1210

Val-Kill Cottage and Collections

Eleanor Roosevelt's Hyde Park, New York home, furnishings and documents
519 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(845) 229-9115

Harriet Tubman Residence and Home for the Aged

Various properties associated with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
180 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 252-2081

Greensboro Historical Museum

Dolley Madison's clothing collection
130 Summit Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27401
(336) 373-2479

**Edith Wharton Restoration/
The Mount**

Home and gardens designed by noted author Edith Wharton
2 Plunkett Street
P.O. Box 974
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-1899

Ganondagan State Historic Site

Site of a 17th Century Seneca Village, home of the Iroquois native Americans
P.O. Box 239
Victor, NY 14564
(716) 924-5848

Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office and Artifacts

Apartment and office of Ms. Clara Barton from 1861-1868
7th and D Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20407
(202) 401-9692

Hill-Stead Museum

Designed by pioneer female architect Theodate Pope Riddle
35 Mountain Road
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-4787

National First Ladies Library

Housed in City National Bank Building built in 1895
331 Market Avenue South
Canton, OH 44702
(330) 452-0876

WOMEN'S PROGRESS COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

PUBLIC LAW 105:341, 105TH CONGRESS

(OCTOBER 31, 1998)

An Act

To establish a commission, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, to further protect sites of importance in the historic efforts to secure equal rights for women. <<NOTE: Oct. 31, 1998 - [S. 2285]>>

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, <<NOTE: Women's Progress Commemoration Act.>>

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Progress Commemoration Act".

SEC. 2. DECLARATION. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

Congress declares that—

- (1) the original Seneca Falls Convention, held in upstate New York in July 1848, convened to consider the social conditions and civil rights of women at that time;
- (2) the convention marked the beginning of an admirable and courageous struggle for equal rights for women;
- (3) the 150th Anniversary of the convention provides an excellent opportunity to examine the history of the women's movement; and
- (4) a Federal Commission should be established for the important task of ensuring the historic preservation of sites that have been instrumental in American women's history, creating a living legacy for generations to come.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

- (a) Establishment.—There is established a commission to be known as the "Women's Progress Commemoration Commission" (referred to in this Act as the "Commission").
- (b) Membership.—
 - (1) In <<NOTE: President. Congress.>> general.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—
 - (A) 3 shall be appointed by the President;
 - (B) 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (C) 3 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
 - (D) 3 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and
 - (E) 3 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

- (2) Persons eligible.—
 - (A) In general.—The members of the Commission shall be individuals who have knowledge or expertise, whether by experience or training, in matters to be studied by the Commission. The members may be from the public or private sector, and may include Federal, State, or local employees, members of academia, nonprofit organizations, or industry, or other interested individuals.
 - (A) Diversity.—It is the intent of Congress that persons appointed to the Commission under paragraph (1) be persons who represent diverse economic, professional, and cultural backgrounds.
- (3) Consultation and appointment.—<<NOTE: President. Congress.>>
 - (A) In general.—The President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate, and minority leader of the Senate shall consult among themselves before appointing the members of the Commission in order to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, fair and equitable representation of various points of view with respect to the matters to be studied by the Commission.
 - (B) Completion of appointments; vacancies.—The President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate, and minority leader of the Senate shall conduct the consultation under subparagraph (3) and make their respective appointments not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
- (4) Vacancies.—A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.
- (c) Meetings.—
 - (1) Initial meeting.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.
 - (2) Subsequent meetings.—After the initial meeting, the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.
- (d) Quorum.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.
- (e) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

<<NOTE: Deadline. Reports. 16 USC 470a note.>>

Not later than 1 year after the initial meeting of the Commission, the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior and other appropriate Federal, State, and local public and private entities, shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of the Interior a report that—

- (1) identifies sites of historical significance to the women's movement; and
- (2) recommends actions, under the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) and other law, to rehabilitate and preserve the sites and provide to the public interpretive and educational materials and activities at the sites.

SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

- (a) Hearings.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out its duties of this Act.
- (b) Information From Federal Agencies.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. At the request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

- (a) Compensation of Members.—A member of the Commission who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. A member of the Commission who is otherwise an officer or employee of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for services as an officer or employee of the United States.
- (b) Travel Expenses.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of service for the Commission.
- (c) Staff.—
 - (1) In general.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment and termination of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Commission.
 - (2) Compensation.—The executive director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. The Chairperson may fix the compensation of other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51

and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for such personnel may not exceed the rate payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

- (4) Detail of government employees.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and the detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privilege.
- (c) Procurement of Temporary and Intermittent Services.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

SEC. 7. FUNDING. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

- (a) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.
- (b) Donations.—The Commission may accept donations from non-Federal sources to defray the costs of the operations of the Commission.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION. <<NOTE: 16 USC 470a note.>>

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits to the Secretary of the Interior the report under section 4(b).

SEC. 9. REPORTS TO CONGRESS. <<NOTE: Deadline. 16 USC 470a note.>>

Not later than 2 years and not later than 5 years after the date on which the Commission submits to the Secretary of the Interior the report under section 4, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report describing the actions that have been taken to preserve the sites identified in the Commission report as being of historical significance.

Approved October 31, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2285:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105-396 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
 Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
 Oct. 10, considered and passed House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Banner, Lois W. *Women in Modern America: A Brief History*. Harcourt Brace, 1994.

Evans, Sara M. *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America*. The Free Press, 1997.

Franck, Irene and Brownstone, David. *The Women's Desk Reference*. Viking Press, 1993.

Lerner, Gerda. *Black Women in White America: A Documentary History*. Vintage Books, 1992.

Living the Legacy: The Women's Rights Movement 1848-1998.
<http://www.legacy98.org>

Lunardini, Cristine. *What Every American Woman Should Know About Women's History*. Adams Media Corp., 1996.

Miller, Page Putnam, ed. *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1992.

National Park Service. "Exploring a Common Past: Interpreting Women's History in the Park Service." 1996.

National Register Information System
<http://www.nr.nps.gov/>

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
<http://www.dar.org/natsociety/default.html>

National Trust for Historic Preservation
<http://www.nationaltrust.org>

National Women's Hall of Fame
<http://www.greatwomen.org>

National Women's History Project
<http://www.nwhp.org>

Places Where Women Made History
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwvmh/>

Preservation Technology and Training Grants 2000
<http://www.ncptt.gov/notes/37/cover.stm>

Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs.
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/laws/36CFR1.html>

Rosenberg, Rosalind. *Divided Lines: American Women in the 20th Century*. Noonday Press, 1992.

Searching for Women on the National Register of Historic Places.
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/travel/pwvmh.htm>

Sheer, Lynn and Kazickas, Jurate. *Susan B. Anthony Slept Here: A Guide to American Women's Landmarks*. Times Books, 1994.

Shull, Carol. *Placing Women in the Past. Agencies, Indian Tribes, States, Local Governments, and the Private Sector* 20.3 (1997). 11-15.

State Historic Preservation Officers
http://grants.cr.gov/shpos_search.cfm

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.
<http://www.ajli.org/home.html>

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act.
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/pad/sec110.htm>

The United Daughters of the Confederacy
<http://www.hqudc.org>

Tinling, Marion. *Women Remembered: A Guide to Landmarks of Women's History in the United States*. Greenwood Publishing Group, 1986.

Weatherford, Doris. *American Women's History*. Macmillan General Reference, 1994.

Women's Rights National Historic Park.
<http://www.nps.gov/wori>

Women's History Celebration: The Presidents Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.
<http://hydra.gsa.gov/staff/pa/whc.htm>

Zophy, Angela Howard and Kavenick, Frances M. *Handbook of American Women's History*. Garland Press.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our thanks to the women and men who attended our meetings, at their own expense, to share their ideas with this Commission. Their thoughtful testimony shaped the concepts in this report and provided guidance as we explored new territory in the world of women's history sites.

We especially thank Josie Fernandez, Superintendent, Women's

Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, N.Y. for her dedication to the mission of this Commission, her guidance, and her wise advice as we deliberated the issues that confronted us.

Commissions cannot accomplish their missions without competent staff. Ours was beyond compare. Cindy Pellegrini provided invaluable insights into the authorizing legislation that enlightened our discussions. Cindy Gilbert superbly managed every

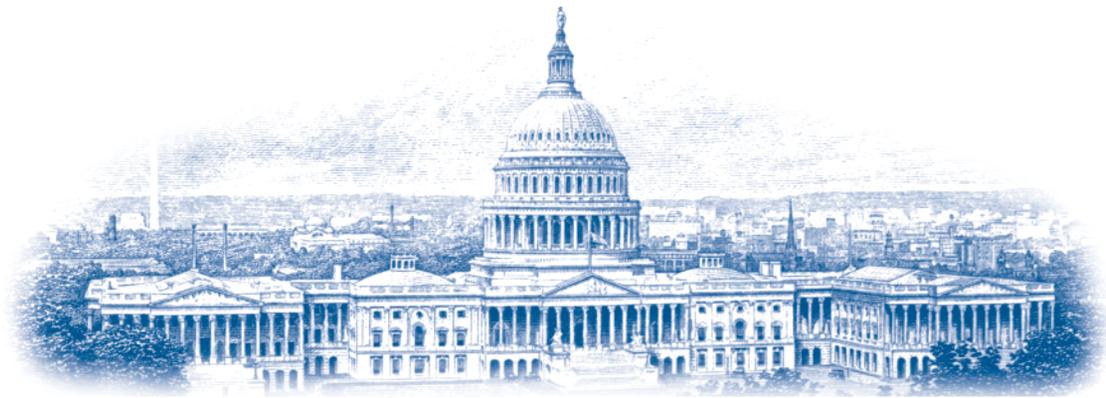
business detail of the Commission. Evelyn (Sunny) Sims researched many of the historical processes and Traquel Butler created the women's history sites database with unequalled efficiency. Andy Black, Jack Wallenfelt and Don Jodrie all worked together to ensure that our report was beautifully designed and printed on schedule.

We are especially grateful to our Chairperson, Representative Louise Slaughter, and to Senator Chris Dodd, whose joint sponsorship of our

authorizing legislation, Public Law 105-341, turned an exciting concept into a productive Commission.

We present this report to the Secretary of the Interior and to all Americans in the hope that the future we imagine will include women's history sites that reflect the greatness that is America.

*The Commissioners of the Women's
Progress Commemorative Commission
July 9, 2001*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2001

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In 1845, journalist and author Margaret Fuller laid out her hope for the future of this Nation's women: "We would have every arbitrary barrier thrown down. We would have every path laid open to women as freely as to men. If you ask me what offices they may fill, I reply — any, I do not care what case you put; let them be sea captains, if you will."

More than 150 years later, we are closer than ever to realizing Margaret Fuller's dream. Women account for nearly half of all workers. Today, women are "captains" of their own destinies, and they will continue to help shape our Nation's future. Women hold 74 seats in the United States Congress, more than at any time in our country's history, and women own more than 9 million businesses employing more than 27.5 million workers. Through their tireless service on a daily basis, the women of our Nation have woven the fabric of families and communities. They contribute immeasurably through faith-based and community organizations.

Our Nation's women could not be where they are — nor could our country be where it is — without the strength and courage, wisdom and persistence of those who preceded them. America has been blessed with women like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony, and Jane Addams, all of whom refused to accept oppression as inevitable. Female political leaders including Margaret Chase Smith and Eleanor Roosevelt forever changed the face of American government. Women have played a vital role in educating our Nation: Mary Lyon, Dorothea Dix, Elizabeth Blackwell, and Mary McLeod Bethune all fought history and stereotypes to become scholars in their own right and pass their knowledge to subsequent generations. Similarly, female authors such as Anne

Bradstreet, Emily Dickinson, Pearl Buck, and Zora Neale Hurston represent only a small sample of the many women who have contributed to the American literary canon.

Our Nation boasts a rich history of women whose heroic achievements speak to the sense of excellence, potential, and patriotism shared by all Americans. Anna Warner Bailey's and Clara Barton's courage in war has inspired generations of men and women called upon to fight for America. The fortitude of spirit displayed by Helen Keller, Amelia Earhart, and Wilma Rudolph has made them role models both here and abroad. Finally, from the sacrifice of mothers and grandmothers to the dedication of successful women in business, government, and charitable work, the legacy of women in America gives all young people in this country the impetus to dream without limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as "Women's History Month." I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to remember their contributions throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:

Beth Newburger
Executive Director
Women's Progress Commemorative Commission
beth.newburger@prodigy.net

or

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter
Chair
Women's Progress Commemorative Commission
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515